

IN RECOGNITION OF AZERBAIJAN  
REPUBLIC DAY**HON. RANDY HULTGREN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Azerbaijan as it recently celebrated the 99th anniversary of Republic Day.

On May 28, 1918, the Azerbaijani National Council proclaimed the independence of Azerbaijan and the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Thus, Azerbaijan became the first democratic parliamentary republic in the Muslim world.

Since that day nearly a century ago and especially over the last 25 years, the United States has striven to develop, grow, and enhance its relationship with Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people.

Azerbaijan is an ethnically diverse country where the predominately Muslim population coexists with Christian, Jewish, and other religious communities. The country has emerged as a leader in energy markets in the Caspian Region for several years now. The United States has long supported Azerbaijan's achievements and the United States seeks to maintain a strong bilateral economic relationship through the promotion of trade and investment.

The United States and Azerbaijan continue to foster a strong and sturdy partnership and cooperate on economic and security issues. Azerbaijan has taken critical steps toward working with the United States on counterterrorism efforts. The American people appreciate and are grateful for the solid bilateral relationship forged over the years with Azerbaijan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan and its people on this the 99th anniversary commemorating Republic Day.

**SERENITY GARCIA****HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Serenity Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Serenity Garcia is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Serenity Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Serenity Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## RECOGNIZING GARY LETTERLY

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Gary Letterly for his dedication to the agricultural community and congratulate him on his retirement after 25 years with University of Illinois Extension.

For nearly three decades, Gary has worked at the Extension office in Christian County, contributing to local economic development projects within the county. In this role, Gary was able to establish an Enterprise Zone along Route 29 and create "Community Swaps" which helped connect community leaders and elected officials to similarly-sized communities in the state as a way to help those officials learn and grow in their positions.

As his career progressed, Gary's unique specializations and insight helped to broaden the focus and expand the impact of the University of Illinois Extension Office. His broad range of skills greatly impacted the production of local row-crops as well as homeowner lawn and pest issues.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Letterly's work on behalf of the agricultural community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

**HONORING HUBERT MILLS****HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the world has changed much over the last 100 years. If you want to know just how much, ask Mr. Hubert Mills of Hot Springs, Arkansas. The year of Mr. Mills' birth was eventful—the U.S. faced uncertainty as President Woodrow Wilson prepared our nation for World War I, the Chicago White Sox won the world series, and the man who would become the 35th U.S. President, John F. Kennedy, was born.

In his 100 years of life, Mr. Mills saw America win two world wars and put a man on the moon. He has lived through the administrations of 18 presidents of the United States and experienced the American dream.

During 100 years, he has worked a variety of jobs from driving a sprinkler truck at the local race track at age 20 to working as a driver for Railway Express. But Mr. Mills made a name for himself building homes in the Hot Springs region, retiring at the age of 95, though he still does work for his many customers.

At 100-years-old, Mr. Mills is surrounded by many loved ones, including his three children, six grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. As Mr. Mills celebrates his 100th birthday on Friday, June 9, 2017, I would like to wish him a happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED  
HEALTH FOUNDATION'S DIVERSE  
SCHOLARS INITIATIVE**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, continuing to modernize the health care system requires improving the quality and delivery of health care, the backbone of which is our health workforce. I am proud to have the opportunity today to talk about a group of promising students from around the country. This year's United Health Foundation Diverse Scholars Initiative scholarship recipients represent 36 states, and they are some of the brightest individuals preparing to enter the health workforce.

They are working hard in their undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs—whether they are studying to be physicians, nurses, dentists, or mental health providers—to increase the number of skilled professionals entering the health workforce. This is key to the future of our nation's health: we need a robust health care workforce in order to increase access to care in rural areas and across the nation.

Beyond their academic achievements, I would also like to recognize their commitment to making the health care system more culturally relevant and their dedication to improving the health outcomes of the individuals they will one day serve. Research shows that when people are treated by health professionals who share their language, culture, or ethnicity, they are more likely to accept and receive medical treatment. That is why these students will be a great asset to our nation's health care system.

Next week, these scholars will be joining us in Washington, D.C. to examine some of the nation's most urgent health care issues and potential solutions as part of the Diverse Scholars Forum. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the United Health Foundation's Diverse Scholars Initiative has helped more than 2,000 multicultural students from across the country realize their dreams of pursuing careers in health while meeting the needs of local and underserved communities. This year, these scholars include a group of military spouses pursuing health careers who have received scholarships, and I would like to recognize their commitment to becoming part of the future health workforce and for their sacrifices and service to our nation.

To these exceptional scholars, congratulations and best wishes for success in all of your future endeavors. As a teacher, I'm proud to know that we have scholars like you who are ready to lead us into a new era of better and more efficient health care. I know that our nation's health care system will benefit from your hard work and talent.

Aviva Aguilar, Fatima Ahmad, Maria Alfaro, Sainfer Aliyu, Cesar Andrade, Austere Apollo, Shantrice Appleby, Janetci Arevalo, Melissa Avila, Kwame Awuku, Kane Banner, Cristina Batarse, Simone Batiste, Shanell Becenti, Asma Begum, Ashleigh Bennett, Michael Bervell, Carlene Black, Ashley Blackwell, Ruth Campos, Girah Caraballo, Suzanne Carvajal-Pinos, Danelle Cooper, Radha Dahal, Ana Maria De Leon, Angelica Duque, Marissa

Emadi, Rebecca Espinoza, Gerardo Flores, Clarissa Flores, Itzel Garcia Vasquez, Raffaella Garofanelli, Jeremy Garriga, Jashalynn German, Claudio Gonzalez, Paula-Ann Granston, Katie Haynes, Ray Hill, Shakura Howard, Wesley Hungbui, Ronald Ikech, Jalane Jara, Karianne Jones, Ramanjot Kaur, Leslie Kedelty, Cleo Klopffleisch, Vin Lay, Than Le, Amy Liang, Christine Loftis, Dylan Lopez, Quentin Loyd, Mabel Luo, Andrew Ly, Maria Madrigal, Alexann Masiko-Meyer, Beverley Mateo, Karen Mendez, Justin Mollison, Kimberley Mondestin, Christian Monsalve, Maria Moreno Valencia, Krista Morine, Egypt Muhammad, Marilyn Ndukwe, Ronke Olowojesiku, Chiemeka Onyima, Victoria Ordaz-Garcia, Laura Sofia Ortega Flores, Angelika Pasion, Sylvia Pena, Laura Penalo, Joshua Platero, Anna Quintanilla, Alejandro Rabionet, Grace Ramirez, Caesar Rangel, Kimyetta Robinson, Franklyn Rocha Cabrero, Victoria Rodriguez, Nancy Roque, Giovanni Rosas Escobedo, Leah Ruiz, Valeria Salazar Balli, Kelly Sanchez, Maria Smith, Alcha Strane, Maylei Suen, Brenda Talamantes, Lisa Tu, Ifeanyi Uche, Best Uchehara, Madelyne Valdez, Jennifer Villalobos, Sebastian Villegas, Joaquin Villegas, Craig Washington, Veronica Williams, Davontae Willis, Bethany Womack, Chaoyan Yu, Ashley Zapata.

SHELBY SCHINDLER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shelby Schindler for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Shelby Schindler is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shelby Schindler is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shelby Schindler for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, due to the birth of my first child I was unable to be present for votes taken May 18 through 19, 22, and 24 through 25, as well as for some votes on May 23. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 263 (Previous Question on H. Res. 324): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 264 (Passage of H. Res. 324): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 265 (Passage of H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 266 (Passage of H.R. 1892, the Honoring Hometown Heroes Act): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 267 (Passage of H.AMDT. 117 to H.R. 1039 offered by Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 268 (Passage of H.R. 1039, the Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 269 (Passage of H.R. 1862, the Global Child Protection Act of 2017): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 270 (Passage of H.R. 1842, the Strengthening Children's Safety Act): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 273 (Passage of H.R. 2288, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 274 (Motion to Table): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 275 (Previous Question on H. Res. 352): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 276 (Passage of H. Res. 352): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 277 (Passage of H.R. 2052, the Protecting the Rights of Individuals Against Technological Exploitation (PRIVATE) Act): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 278 (Passage of H.R. 467, the VA Scheduling Accountability Act): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 279 (Passage of H. AMDT. 118 to H.R. 953 offered by Rep. ELIZABETH ESTY): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 280 (Passage of H. AMDT. 119 to H.R. 953 offered by Rep. JARED HUFFMAN): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 281 (Motion to Re-commit on H.R. 953): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 282 (Passage of H.R. 953, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 283 (Passage of H. AMDT. 124 to H.R. 1761 offered by Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 284 (Passage of H.R. 1761, the Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act of 2017): YES.

Roll Call Vote Number 285 (H.R. 1973, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017): YES.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 7, I joined the Vice President for an important event at Johnson Space Center in my congressional district. As a result, I missed the following recorded votes:

On roll call Number 288, ordering the previous question on House Resolution 374, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On roll call Number 289, agreeing to House Resolution 374, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On roll call Number 290, ordering the previous question on House Resolution 375, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On roll call Number 291, agreeing to House Resolution 375, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On roll call Number 292, the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair, had I been present I would have voted "yes."

On roll call Number 293, passage of an amendment to H.R. 2213, had I been present I would have voted "no."

On roll call Number 294, passage of H.R. 2213, had I been present I would have voted "yes." I am pleased that my colleagues in the House voted to pass the Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act of 2017 that will enable the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to fulfill its duty to protect the American people by waiving specific pre-employment requirements for certain qualified candidates to make the hiring process more expedient. The CBP is currently understaffed below its congressionally mandated level and this bill will help alleviate this staffing shortage.

TRIBUTE TO MADELEINE BERMAN  
AND HER LATE HUSBAND,  
MANDELL BERMAN

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two remarkable people from my home state of Michigan, Madeleine Berman and her late husband, Mandell Berman. The Bermans are being honored by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) at its seventh annual Heroes Gala on June 10, 2017 for their significant contributions to the DSO, which plays a vital role in the vibrant cultural fabric of Southeast Michigan.

For many of us privileged with the long and warm personal friendship with Madge and Bill Berman, who passed away at the age of 99 last December, this Heroes Gala provides the opportunity to give thanks for the blessings of their generosity to the DSO, as well as a very broad range of community interests.

In recognition of his leadership, Bill Berman was given the Russell G. Mawby Award by the Council of Michigan Foundations in 2012, and he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Madge Berman has served two terms on the President's Committee for the Arts, to which she was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1994 and reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2009, and received the national Legacy Award from Americans for the Arts, which she has served as a board member since 1989.

Their passion for the arts and education truly came together in Bill and Madge's support for the DSO, particularly in their vision and support for its "Live from Orchestra Hall: Classroom Edition" program. Grounded in her background in music, communication and theater, Madge Berman wanted to find a way to use technology to help bring the experience of the orchestra to young people in Detroit who may otherwise not be exposed to it. She and Bill brought the idea to the leadership of the DSO, and "Live from Orchestra Hall: Classroom Edition" was born. This one of a kind webcast series aimed at youth is made available at no cost to every classroom in the Detroit Public Schools Community District, and students from throughout the United States and the world have experienced the beauty of orchestral music through its availability on the